

THOMAS G. DIGGES

JUNE 19, 1951.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered
to be printed

Mr. BYRNE of New York, from the Committee on the Judiciary,
submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany H. R. 2550]

The Committee on the Judiciary to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 2550) for the relief of Thomas G. Digges, having considered the same, report favorably thereon without amendment and recommendation that the bill do pass.

The purpose of the proposed legislation is to pay the sum of \$96, out of funds of the District of Columbia, to Thomas G. Digges, of Arlington, Va., in full settlement of all claims of said Thomas G. Digges against the District of Columbia for refund of the amount of the nonresident tuition fee which he paid on September 1, 1949, to the District of Columbia for the attendance of his son, Robert H. Digges, at Gordon Junior High School for the first semester of the 1949-50 school year.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

The Honorable John Russell Young, President of the Board of Commissioners of the District of Columbia, recommends the enactment of this bill, and your committee concurs in that recommendation. The letter from Commissioner Young is as follows:

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA,
EXECUTIVE OFFICES,
Washington 4, D. C., May 11, 1951.

Hon. EMANUEL CELLER,
*Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary,
House of Representatives, Washington, D. C.*

MY DEAR MR. CELLER: The Commissioners have for report H. R. 2550, Eighty-second Congress, a bill for the relief of Thomas G. Digges.

The bill provides that Mr. Digges be paid the sum of \$96, representing a refund of the nonresident tuition fee for the first semester of the 1949-50 school year. The tuition fee was paid by Mr. Digges, a resident of Virginia, for the instruction of his son Robert at Gordon Junior High School. Young Digges, however,

withdrew from Gordon after attending classes for 1 day, and entered a Virginia school.

In view of the circumstances of this particular case, the Commissioners have no objection to the passage of the bill.

The Commissioners have been advised by the Bureau of the Budget that there is no objection on the part of that office to submission of this report to the Congress.

Respectfully,

JOHN RUSSELL YOUNG,
President, Board of Commissioners, District of Columbia.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, D. C., May 22, 1951.

HON. EMANUEL CELLER,
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary,
House of Representatives, Washington 25, D. C.

MY DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: In response to your formal request to file such evidence as I may have in support of H. R. 2550 which I introduced for the relief of Thomas G. Digges, I am pleased to enclose herewith official receipt for \$96 paid by Thomas G. Digges to the Collector of Taxes for the District of Columbia, September 1, 1949, for the purpose of paying the tuition of the claimant's son, Robert H. Digges, who desired to attend the Gordon Junior High School for the first semester of the 1949-50 school year.

The claimant resides at 3900 North Albemarle Street, Arlington, Va., and he made arrangements for his son to attend Gordon Junior High School as a non-resident student because of the crowded condition of the schools in Arlington, Va.

However, when his son entered Gordon Junior High School on the morning of September 12, 1949, he found that school more crowded than the Arlington schools. Mr. Digges therefore served notice on the principal of the Gordon Junior High School that day that he would withdraw his son from there and have him attend instead the Arlington school nearest his home. When he made application for refund of the tuition paid he was advised by Mr. R. F. Harris, Director of Finance, Department of Business Administration, Public Schools of the District of Columbia, that the amount of tuition collected could not be legally returned since there was no provision of law authorizing such a refund. It was therefore necessary that I introduce H. R. 2550 to authorize refund in the amount of \$96.

If any additional evidence is desired or needed I will undertake to supply such as may be available. I hope this will be sufficient to warrant favorable report of the bill by your committee.

With kindest regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

HOWARD W. SMITH.